

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 30 were pending and at issue as of the office action. Dependent claims 2, 20, 28 and 29 have been confirmed as reciting allowable subject matter. The remaining claims have been rejected on prior art grounds.

Applicant has amended the independent claims above to include the allowed subject matter, thereby obviating all rejections of the pending claims and placing this application into immediate condition for allowance. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite the provisionally-allowed subject matter of dependent claim 2, which has now been canceled without prejudice to reinstate. Claim 19 has been amended to recite the provisionally-allowed subject matter of dependent claim 20, which has now been canceled without prejudice to reinstate. And, claim 27 has been amended to recite the provisionally-allowed subject matter of dependent claim 28, which has now been canceled without prejudice to reinstate. Additionally, the dependency of claim 29 has been changed to that of claim 27, in light of the cancellation of claim 28.

Claim 27 stands provisionally rejected based on a non-statutory double-patenting rejection in light of co-pending application serial no. 11/039,174. A response in this co-pending application is being filed contemporaneously with the instant response. A terminal disclaimer regarding the co-pending application is attached hereto. The provisional rejection of claim 27 is obviated.

This application (claims 1, 3-19, 21-24, 27, 29, and 30) is in condition for immediate allowance.

Housekeeping

In reviewing the file, applicant's representative noticed that the examiner has not yet returned initialed copies of the **February 25, 2004** and **April 14, 2005** information disclosure statements filed in this case. A copy of each are attached along with a copy of the Public PAIR page showing that each of these

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information disclosure statements was properly received by the patent office and made of record in the file wrapper.

Applicant respectfully requests that the examiner initial and return the disclosure listings to indicate that the references cited therein were properly considered.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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